

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Grass Carp Stocking Stipulations

All grass carp (*Ctenopharygodon idellus*) stocking shall be done in compliance with Chapter 49, Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regulation Governing Private Fish Stocking. Any person intending to stock grass carp on privately owned lands shall submit an application for Private Fish Stocking Authorization, on a form provided by the Department, to the Chief of Fisheries at least ten business days before the intended stocking date. A separate application is required for each body of water or stream for which fish stocking authorization is requested and for each time stocking is to occur.

Only grass carp that are certified 100% triploid by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, certified free of Asian tapeworm (*Bothriocephalus acheilognathi*) and are from a source certified free of all life stages of zebra and quagga mussel (*Dreissena sp.*) shall be authorized for stocking in Wyoming. Copies of the Asian tapeworm and zebra/quagga mussel certifications must be provided to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department (Department) prior to issuance of a private fish stocking authorization. Upon completion of fish stocking under a Private Fish Stocking Authorization, the applicant shall, within fifteen (15) days, submit to the Fish Division a copy of the signed Private Fish Stocking Authorization, a receipt of deliver from the hatchery, a the original U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Grass Carp Ploidy Release Authorization.

Grass carp must be obtained directly from a Department Approved Hatchery that produced the fish and shall not be obtained from a secondary broker.

A current disease free salmonid fish health inspection report shall also be provided to the Department for grass carp obtained from a facility that also rears salmonid species. That fish health inspection report shall include a report on the occurrence of all pathogens listed in Chapter 10, Section 2(b) of Department regulations.

Any person importing, possessing or transporting grass carp in Wyoming shall allow immediate inspection upon request of Department personnel. The Department shall have the right to inspect and collect samples (including lethal samples) for disease testing, species identification or other purposes. The Department will, upon request, provide reimbursement for any fish sacrificed for fish health checks.

Grass carp shall only be stocked in the water identified on the stocking authorization. Stocking of grass carp in other waters or the transfer of stocked grass carp to any other waters is prohibited.

Within Wyoming waters of the Colorado River Basin, including all waters in Drainage Area 4 of Department Fishing Regulations (Chapter 46), the following requirements also apply;

- Stocking of grass carp in any stream or river in Drainage Area 4 is prohibited.
- Stocking of grass carp in any pond (or other standing water) within the 100-year floodplain of any stream or river within Drainage Area 4 is prohibited unless the water is bermed to FEMA standards to the 100-year floodplain and the outlet is screened, prior to stocking. The screening and berming must be approved by the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prior to stocking.

Within Wyoming waters of all other river basins, including all waters in Drainage Areas 1, 2, 3, and 5 of Department Fishing Regulations (Chapter 46), the following requirements also apply;

- An applicant requesting to stock grass carp in any stream, river or standing water where the species is not already present in the drainage shall be required to prepare and submit an environmental assessment (EA) as defined by the Department at the expense of the applicant. The Department shall review the environmental assessment and private fish stocking authorization application for final approval or denial.
- An applicant may be exempted from the EA requirement if requesting to stock a standing water that a) already contains grass carp, b) is outside the 100-year floodplain of any stream or river, or c) is within the 100-year floodplain of any stream or river, but will be bermed to FEMA standards to the 100-year floodplain and will have the outlet screened prior to stocking. The screening and berming must be approved by the Department prior to stocking.

Grass carp stocking shall not be approved on any Wyoming water where the presence of the species may not be compatible with species already present in the drainage, if stocking of the species conflicts with Department management goals for the drainage, or if the species poses a threat to existing wildlife populations.